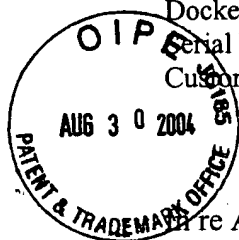


DFW

Patent



Docket No. 87359.1960

Serial No.: 10/617,702

Customer No. 30734

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

James Baich et al.

Application No.: 10/617,702

Filed: July 14, 2003

For: **PIPE CONNECTING METHOD AND
APPARATUS**

) Confirmation No. 3730
)
) Group Art Unit: 3679
)
) Examiner: David Bochna
)
)
)

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 28, 2004, to which a response is due without an extension by August 28, 2004. In view of the following amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections and allow all claims pending in the application.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.